

Amendments to the Claim:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for the treatment of loss of body weight and body fat and/or treatment of cachexia, and/or stimulation of appetite and/or stimulation of food intake and/or stimulation of weight gain and/or increasing body fat mass in a gastrectomized and vagectomized individual, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of ghrelin or analogue thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to said individual.

2. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the ghrelin or analogue thereof is a ghrelin-like compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof wherein the ghrelin-like compound comprises a structure defined by formula I



Z^1 is an optionally present protecting group

each X^1 is independently selected from an amino acid, wherein said amino acid is selected from the group consisting of naturally occurring and synthetic amino acids, X^2 is any amino acid selected from the group consisting of naturally occurring and synthetic occurring amino acids, said amino acid being modified with a bulky hydrophobic group, each X^3 is independently selected from an amino acid, wherein said amino acid is selected from the group consisting of naturally occurring and synthetic amino acids, wherein one or more of X^1 and X^3 optionally may be modified by a bulky hydrophobic group, Z^2 is an optionally present protecting group,

m is an integer in the range of from 1-10, and/or
n is 0 or an integer in the range of from 1-35.

3. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein m is an integer in the range of from 1-9.

4. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein X^2 is selected from the group consisting of modified Ser, modified Cys and modified Lys.

5. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the ghrelin-like compound is selected from the group consisting of:

formula II $Z^1 - \text{Gly} - (X^1)_{m-1} - (X^2) - (X^3)_n - Z^2$,

formula III $Z^1 - \text{Gly} - \text{Ser} - (X^2) - (X^3)_n - Z^2$, and

formula IV $Z^1 - \text{Gly} - (X^2) - (X^3)_n - Z^2$.

6. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the ghrelin-like compound is having formula III.

7. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein $(X^3)_n$ comprises a sequence selected from the group consisting of:

Phe Leu Ser Pro Glu His Gln (SEQ ID NO: 22)

Phe Leu Ser Pro Glu His (SEQ ID NO: 23)

Phe Leu Ser Pro Glu (SEQ ID NO: 24)

Phe Leu Ser Pro (SEQ ID NO: 25)

Phe Leu Ser (SEQ ID NO: 26)

Phe Leu (SEQ ID NO: 27)

Phe (SEQ ID NO: 28)

8. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein n is an integer in the range of from 1-25.

9. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein $(X^3)_n$ is selected from the group consisting of:

Phe Leu Ser Pro Glu His Gln Arg Val Gln Gln Arg Lys Glu Ser
Lys Lys Pro Pro Ala Lys Leu Gln Pro Arg (SEQ ID NO: 4)

Phe Leu Ser Pro Glu His Gln Arg Val Gln Gln Arg Lys Glu Ser
Lys Lys Pro Pro Ala Lys Leu Gln Pro (SEQ ID NO: 5)

Phe Leu Ser Pro Glu His Gln Arg Val Gln Gln Arg Lys Glu Ser
Lys Lys Pro Pro Ala Lys Leu Gln (SEQ ID NO: 6)

Phe Leu Ser Pro Glu His Gln Arg Val Gln Gln Arg Lys Glu Ser
Lys Lys Pro Pro Ala Lys Leu (SEQ ID NO: 7)

Phe Leu Ser Pro Glu His Gln Arg Val Gln Gln Arg Lys Glu Ser
Lys Lys Pro Pro Ala Lys (SEQ ID NO: 8)

Phe Leu Ser Pro Glu His Gln Arg Val Gln Gln Arg Lys Glu Ser
Lys Lys Pro Pro Ala (SEQ ID NO: 9)

Phe Leu Ser Pro Glu His Gln Arg Val Gln Gln Arg Lys Glu Ser
Lys Lys Pro Pro (SEQ ID NO: 10)

Phe Leu Ser Pro Glu His Gln Arg Val Gln Gln Arg Lys Glu Ser
Lys Lys Pro (SEQ ID NO: 11)

Phe Leu Ser Pro Glu His Gln Arg Val Gln Gln Arg Lys Glu Ser
Lys Lys (SEQ ID NO: 12)

Phe Leu Ser Pro Glu His Gln Arg Val Gln Gln Arg Lys Glu Ser
Lys (SEQ ID NO: 13)

USSN - 10/530,866

Phe Leu Ser Pro Glu His Gln Arg Val Gln Gln Arg Lys Glu Ser
(SEQ ID NO: 14)

Phe Leu Ser Pro Glu His Gln Arg Val Gln Gln Arg Lys Glu (SEQ
ID NO: 15)

Phe Leu Ser Pro Glu His Gln Arg Val Gln Gln Arg Lys (SEQ ID
NO: 16)

Phe Leu Ser Pro Glu His Gln Arg Val Gln Gln Arg (SEQ ID NO:
17)

Phe Leu Ser Pro Glu His Gln Arg Val Gln Gln (SEQ ID NO: 18)

Phe Leu Ser Pro Glu His Gln Arg Val Gln (SEQ ID NO: 19)

Phe Leu Ser Pro Glu His Gln Arg Val (SEQ ID NO: 20)

Phe Leu Ser Pro Glu His Gln Arg (SEQ ID NO: 21)

Phe Leu Ser Pro Glu His Gln (SEQ ID NO: 22)

Phe Leu Ser Pro Glu His (SEQ ID NO: 23)

Phe Leu Ser Pro Glu (SEQ ID NO: 24)

Phe Leu Ser Pro (SEQ ID NO: 25)

Phe Leu Ser (SEQ ID NO: 26)

Phe Leu (SEQ ID NO: 27)

Phe (SEQ ID NO: 28)

10. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 2, wherein the bulky hydrophobic group is selected from a C1-C35 acyl group.

11-13. (cancelled)

14. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the ghrelin-like compound or a salt thereof is provided in the form of a solution.

15. (previously presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein the solution is a saline solution.

16-17. (cancelled)

18. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein said ghrelin or analogue thereof is administered in combination with another stomach derived factor.

19. (cancelled)

20. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein said ghrelin or analogue thereof is administered in combination with another body weight and/or body fat inducing factor.

21. (cancelled)

22. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the ghrelin or analogue thereof is provided in a form suitable for oral, nasal, transdermal, pulmonary, or parenteral administration.

23-26. (cancelled)

27. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the ghrelin or analogue thereof is provided in a form suitable for subcutaneous administration.

28. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the ghrelin or analogue thereof is administered in a dose of from about 0.01 µg/kg body weight to 10 mg/kg body weight daily.

29. (cancelled)

30. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the ghrelin or analogue thereof is administered prior to or during a meal.

31-37. (cancelled)

38. (currently amended) A method of inhibiting or treating the loss of body weight or body fat, or the loss of appetite, or the development of cachexia, attributable to gastrectomization, which comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of ghrelin or an analogue thereof, or a salt thereof, to an individual at a ~~prophylactically~~ on therapeutically effective time, during, or after gastrectomization, and in which the gastrectomization is associated with vagectomization.

39-40. (cancelled)

41. (currently amended) A method of inhibiting or treating the loss of body weight or body fat, or the loss of appetite, or the development of cachexia, attributable to gastrectomization, which comprises (1) administering a prophylactically effective amount of ghrelin or an analogue thereof, ~~of~~ or a salt thereof, ~~prior to gastrectomization,~~ at a prophylactically effective time prior to gastrectomization, or during gastromectization, and (2) gastrectomizing the individual, and in which the gastrectomization is associated with vagectomization.